Filed for intro on 03/10/97

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 102 By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Speaker Pro Tempore
Lois DeBerry on being selected as the third
National Honoree of *The Kansas City Globe's*100 Most Influential African Americans Awards.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to honor those exemplary public servants who have served state government and their fellow citizens with the utmost dedication, integrity and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Pro Tempore Lois DeBerry of Memphis has served the good people of Tennessee with acumen, alacrity and intelligence as State Representative for District 91 for the past 25 years; and

WHEREAS, during her outstanding legislative career, Speaker DeBerry has established a reputation as a dedicated and proficient advocate for minority issues, and she has worked with purpose and commitment to build bridges of social and economic progress, both on the state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, through the sterling efforts of Speaker DeBerry, the barriers between corporate America and state legislators have been effectively bridged; and

WHEREAS, Speaker DeBerry has made political history by being the first woman from the City of Memphis to be elected to the House of Representatives, the first woman chairperson of the Shelby County Democratic Caucus and the first African American woman to be elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the Tennessee House of Representatives; and

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WHEREAS, in furtherance of her unremitting dedication to progress for African Americans, Speaker Lois DeBerry is presently serving her second consecutive term as President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; and

WHEREAS, her stellar tenure in the General Assembly has earned her numerous appointments, even a brief list of which is impressive: she has served with distinction as a member of the Select Committee on Children and Youth, Select Committee on Rules, State Commission on Aging, Oversight Committee on Corrections, House Ethics Committee, Oversight Committee on TennCare and the Task Force on Teenage Pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, throughout her remarkable service in the legislature, Speaker Lois DeBerry has earned countless awards, including the Image of Black Womanhood Award, National Organization of LINKS Social Service Award, the Tri-State Woman of the Year and the Outstanding Woman in Community Service Award from Epsilon Epsilon Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Sorority; and

WHEREAS, it is highly fitting that this General Assembly honor an exemplary public servant who continues to represent her constituents and all Tennesseans with intense devotion and loyalty; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Speaker Pro Tempore Lois DeBerry on being selected as the third National Honoree of *The Kansas City Globe's* 100 Most Influential African Americans Awards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we would like especially to thank Speaker DeBerry for her outstanding contributions to the people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Speaker Pro Tempore Lois DeBerry as a token of our esteem.

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